attention for some years, and as hon. Members may remember we had a pamphlet drawn of which I have got a copy here about the industrial possibilities at Mettur. Copies of this pamphlet were distributed to every Member of this Council and to various Chambers of Commerce and to others likely to be interested. Copies were sent to the High Commissioner for India in London for distribution to persons interested in industries there. Government do not want to start industries themselves. They prefer to leave the development of industries to private undertakings.

"But there is no doubt that there are great possibilities for industrial development at Mettur. One or two persons are already making enquiries with the object of starting industries there. It is most desirable that any industries that may be in view should be started without further delay, as the dam will be completed within another six months. Already a number of lines for coolies are vacant and we are having requests from the Superintendent of the Works for orders whether he may pull down those lines, but so far we have left them alone as they may be useful for some industry or other. We have already established there protected water-supply, underground drainage works, roads and buildings; anti-malarial measures are in operation and there are hospitals and schools. Everything is there. If some industries are to be started there, these buildings need not be dismantled but their value can be credited to the Mettur Project. I am most anxious that that should be done. It will certainly be agreed on all hands that it is very desirable that we should carefully consider whether anything can be done for the establishment of industries at Mettur. 12-30 p.m.

"My hon. Friend also stated that possibly the Government might make use of these buildings for a tuberculosis or leper settlement. I may mention that about two years ago we asked all heads of departments whether they could make any use of any portion of the Mettur buildings and the only reply we had, I think, was for a building or two for the Fisheries Department for a small staff. The question of utilizing the settlement or a portion of it for a leper settlement has, I believe, been under consideration and owing to financial stringency or for some other reason, it has not been possible for the Government to take up the proposal. Lastly, Sir, I may say, that the matter is most urgent and I will ask all the departments to reconsider the question."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi:—"Although I am not convinced by the hon. Member's reply, I withdraw the motion."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was then put and carried and the grant was made.

GRANT XI—MINISTERS, CIVIL SECRETARIATS AND MISCELLANEOUS—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"Mr. President, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'*that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 5,000 under Grant XI—Ministers, Civil Secretariats and Miscellaneous—Transferred.*'

[The Raja of Bobbili] [29th January 1934

"Sir, in May 1932, the Government issued rules that a sum of Rs. 5,000 should be collected from panchayats other than panchayats which were unions on the 25th August 1930 to meet the cost of the first elections to those boards. A sum of Rs. 12,841 was accordingly collected in 1932–33; but as the elections could not be completed that year, only Rs. 4,643 was spent. The elections have now been completed and this supplementary demand for Rs. 5,000 is for expenses in that connexion. The total recoveries in the year 1932–33 and 1933–34 will however exceed the total expenditure in these two years by Rs. 3,173 and thus there will be a net surplus of Rs. 3,173. No expenditure will be incurred from provincial revenues."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Sir, I move—

'*that the allotment of Rs. 5,000 under Grant XI—Ministers, Civil Secretariats and Miscellaneous—Transferred, be reduced by Rs. 100.*'

"My object in moving this cut motion is to urge the necessity for devising a system by which the illiterate voters at panchayat elections may be enabled to vote and at the same time preserve the secrecy of the ballot. It is a legitimate ambition for the hon. Minister to entertain the hope to extend the number and thus increase the usefulness of the panchayat boards in the Presidency; but unless the system of voting now in vogue is changed and improvements in one or two directions, of which I shall speak on another occasion, are effected, we would not have real democracy working in the rural areas. It is agreed on all hands that the illiterate voter also should be enabled to cast his vote in secrecy. But how it is to be done is the question. In Bombay and Mysore they have put in operation a system of their own, but I am not in a position to say how far it is satisfactory. So far as our Presidency is concerned, we have already recognized the necessity for guaranteeing freedom of voting to the illiterate electors by introducing what is called the coloured-box system. That system was intended to secure the voters from being influenced by the man with the long purse or other undue influences. I am convinced that we should devise some satisfactory scheme for guaranteeing the illiterate voter from being known to whom he votes before we extend the number of panchayats. The coloured-box system does not serve the purpose intended and is therefore unsatisfactory. The voting papers are plain blank papers and put by the voters in the boxes representing the various candidates in the sheds or rooms. Boxes cannot be seen by others as otherwise there is no secrecy. Instead of putting it in one of the coloured boxes, there is nothing to prevent him from getting it back with him, hand it over to the candidate or his agent who gets it deposited in the coloured box pertaining to him. By this means, the object with which the Government introduced the coloured-box system is frustrated. Thus, although this system found favour with the Indian Franchise Committee, its defect was not noticed. I therefore suggest that instead of the coloured boxes, if in the ballot paper itself, different colours are printed against the names of the candidates and the

29th January 1934] [Mr. K. Koti Reddi]

voters made to mark in the room and the ballot paper handed over to the polling officer as usual, the voters could easily exercise their franchise without being known. Unless some such system is adopted by the Government, there is no use in developing the panchayat institutions. I hope the hon. Minister will see his way to devise some system by which the illiterate voter can vote in secrecy before he further extends the panchayat system."

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar:—" Sir, I am in favour of the view expressed that a system of voting should be devised which will shield the illiterate voter. Now, we have introduced the system of election in numerous local bodies. If democratic institutions are to work successfully, ample freedom should be given to the voter to exercise his vote in the way he chooses. It has been several times brought to the notice of the Government that, for this purpose, either the coloured-box system or the system by which the candidates would be represented by particular animals or other such symbols, should be introduced. I am sorry, Sir, that this question has not been paid the attention which it deserves. If the democratic institutions are to be as representative of the public as they ought to be, the Government should devise a system for enabling the illiterate voters to exercise their franchise freely and without influence being brought to bear upon them. I wish, Sir, that the hon. Minister takes up this question in right earnest and tries at least as an experiment the possibility of introducing a system which will ensure secrecy in the matter of voting."

* The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" I am very much indebted to the hon. Members for pointing out some of the existing defects in the system of election to panchayat courts. No doubt the present methods are not ideal ones and are not free from defects. Unless there is strong public opinion against the defects of any system, any measures adopted by the Government will prove of no avail. My hon. Friend, Mr. Koti Reddi, who has personal knowledge of one or two such cases, considers that similar things occur in every election throughout the province. I do not think that conditions are as bad as he represents them to be. No doubt I do realize that in certain cases things have not been quite satisfactory. Recently a system of coloured box has been introduced and it provides for each candidate standing for election having a particular colour printed in the ballot box, so that the illiterate voters can make their choice according to the respective colours which the candidates standing for election are given. The Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils has been requested to make draft rules regarding this matter. Of course this system has to be tried and seen how far it will be successful. I shall be pleased to give hon. Members any further information that they may desire if they meet me after the Council meeting. I shall also be grateful to them if they have any further useful suggestions to make in connexion with this matter." 12-45 p.m.

Mr. K. Koti Reddi:—" In view of the assurance given, I beg to withdraw my cut motion."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried and the grant made.

GRANT XIX—MEDICAL.

* The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—" Mr. President, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move—

'*that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs.* 100 *under Grant XIX—Medical.*'

" Sir, this is a token demand for meeting the expenditure on travelling and other allowances to the members nominated and elected to the All-India Medical Council and contingencies (conduct of elections). We have to spend about Rs. 400 in connexion with the election as non-recurring expenditure and about Rs. 1,800 on travelling allowances as recurring expenditure. The full particulars are given in the note. The Accountant-General who was consulted wants a vote of this House for this expenditure. Therefore I have come here with this token demand."

The demand was put and carried and the grant made.

GRANT XXVII—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS—RESERVED.

* The hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—" Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move—

'*that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs.* 31,000 *under Grant XXVII—Miscellaneous Departments—Reserved.*'

" Sir, as stated in the explanatory notes, the Labour Commissioner has reported that he requires Rs. 29,400 for the purpose of employing an assistant manager on Rs. 2,065, lighting charges Rs. 1,300, maintenance of incapables Rs. 2,000, sick charges Rs. 350, travelling allowance Rs. 900, maintenance of settlers Rs. 17,000, office building Rs. 3,000 and laying down of new pipe lines in place of old at Bitragunta and their maintenance Rs. 1,925. We also require Rs. 1,600 for payment of compensation to the Salvation Army for the meeting hall in the Sitanagaram Settlement, the management of which has been taken over by the Government. The reason why we want these amounts is clearly stated in the explanatory notes and I have nothing more to add. I request the House to pass this demand."

The demand was put and carried and the grant made.

IX.—EXCESS DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1931–32.

* The hon. Sir HOPETOUN STOKES:—" I beg to move—

'(*a*) *that an additional sum not exceeding Rs.* 45,497 *be granted under " Grant XXX—Civil Works—Establishment and Tools and Plant " to make good the excess expenditure incurred in the year* 1931–32;

'(*b*) *that an additional sum not exceeding Rs.* 1,786 *be granted under " Grant XXXVIII—Refunds of Revenue—Reserved and Transferred " to make good the excess expenditure incurred in the year* 1931–32.'